duce any light, I firſt began to doubt of my former hypotheſis, and to ſuſpect that the luminous appearance in ſea water muſt be owing to ſome other principles.

I then conſidered whether it were not poſſible, that the particles of air, being electrics *per ſe*, might, in hard gales of wind, by their friction againſt trees, hills, buildings, *&c.* as ſo many minute electric globes, rubbing againſt non-electric cuſhions, draw the electric fire from the earth; and that the riſing vapours might receive that fire from the air, and by ſuch means the clouds become electrified.

If this were ſo, I imagined that by forcing a conſtant violent ſtream of air againſt my prime conductor, by bellows, I ſhould electrify it *negatively*; the rubbing particles of air, drawing from it part of its natural quantity of the electric fluid. I accordingly made the experiment, but it did not ſucceed.

In *September* 1752, I erected an iron rod to draw the lightning down into my houſe, in order to make ſome experiments on it, with two bells to give notice when the rod ſhould be electrify'd: A contrivance obvious to every electrician.

I found the bells rang ſometimes when there was no lightning or thunder, but only a dark cloud over the rod; that ſometimes after a flaſh of lightning they would ſuddenly ſtop; and at other times, when they had not rang before, they would, after a flaſh, ſuddenly begin to ring; that the electricity was ſometimes very faint, ſo that when a ſmall ſpark was obtain'd, another could not be got for ſometime after; at other times the ſparks would follow extremely quick, and once I had a continual ſtream from bell to bell, the ſize of a crow-quill: Even during the ſame guſt there were conſiderable variations.

In the winter following I conceived an experiment, to try whether the clouds were electrify'd *poſitively*, or *negatively*; but my pointed rod, with its apparatus, becoming out of order, I did not refit it till towards the ſpring, when I expected the warm weather would bring on more frequent thunder-clouds.

The experiment was this: To take two phials; charge one of them with lightning from the iron rod, and give the other an equal charge by the electric glaſs globe, thro' the prime conductor: When charg'd, to place them on a table within three or four inches of each other, a ſmall cork ball being ſuſpended by a fine ſilk thread from the ceiling, ſo as it might play between the wires. If both bottles then were electrifyed *poſitively*, the ball being attracted and repell'd by one, muſt be alſo repell'd by the other. If the one *poſitively*, and the other *negatively*; then the ball would be attracted and repell'd alternately by each, and continue to play between them as long as any conſiderable charge remained.

Being very intent on making this experiment, it was no ſmall mortification to me, that I happened to be abroad during two of the greateſt thunder-ſtorms we had early in the ſpring; and tho' I had given orders in my family, that